Docket No.: 31775-229410

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Peter HOPPÉ et al.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants request the entry of the following amendment prior to the examination of the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begins on page 5

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.